

--2. Discussion of Related Art--.

Page 2, line 19, change "Referring" to --With reference--;

line 26, change "referring" to --With reference--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows.

4. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein said first lens group remains fixed during zooming.

5. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein said second lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens from the object side.

6. (Amended) The zoom lens according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein said fourth lens group consists of one positive lens alone.

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7. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, which satisfies the following condition (a):

$$0.3 < |L_3| / |L_2| < 1.0 \quad \dots(a)$$

where  $L_2$  is an amount of said second lens group from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end, and  $L_3$  is an amount of said third lens group from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

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8. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein said second lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.


9. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein said fourth lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

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19. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claim 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 18] claim 17, wherein said fourth lens group moves along an optical axis direction for focusing.

20. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 19] claim 17, which satisfies the following condition (5):

$$0.3 < F_3/F_4 < 0.8 \quad \dots(5)$$

 wherein  $F_i$  is a focal length of an i-th lens group.

21. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 20] claim 17, which satisfies the following condition (6):

$$0.4 < |\beta_{2T}| < 1 \quad \dots(6)$$

where  $\beta_{2T}$  is a lateral magnification of the second lens group of the telephoto end of said system.

22. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 21] claim 17, wherein said fourth lens group consists of one positive lens.

23. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 22] claim 17, wherein said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens in order from an object side thereof.

24. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 23] claim 17, wherein at least one surface in said third lens group is an aspherical surface.

25. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 24] claim 17, wherein at least one surface in said fourth lens group is an aspherical surface.

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26. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 25] claim 17, wherein at least one surface in said second lens group is an aspherical surface.

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[ Claim 28, line 3, after "(8)", insert a period ---.

29. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 26] claim 17, which satisfies the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots(7)$$

where  $v_{21}$  is an Abbe's number of the negative lens located nearest to the object side of said second lens group.

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30. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 26] claim 17, which satisfies the following condition (8):

$$v_{21} < 35 \quad \dots(8)$$

where  $v_{21}$  is an Abbe's number of the negative lens located nearest to the object side of said second lens group.